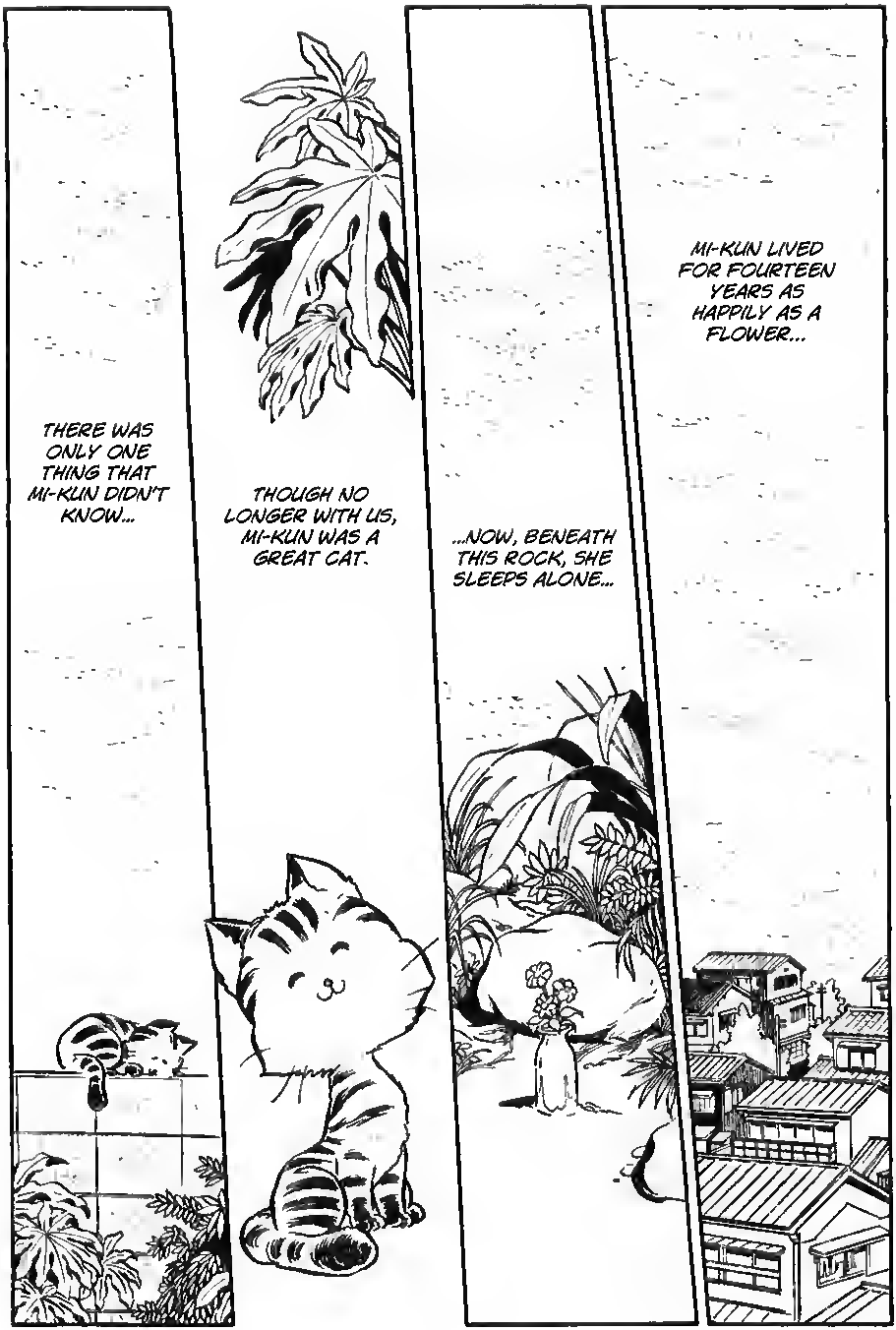
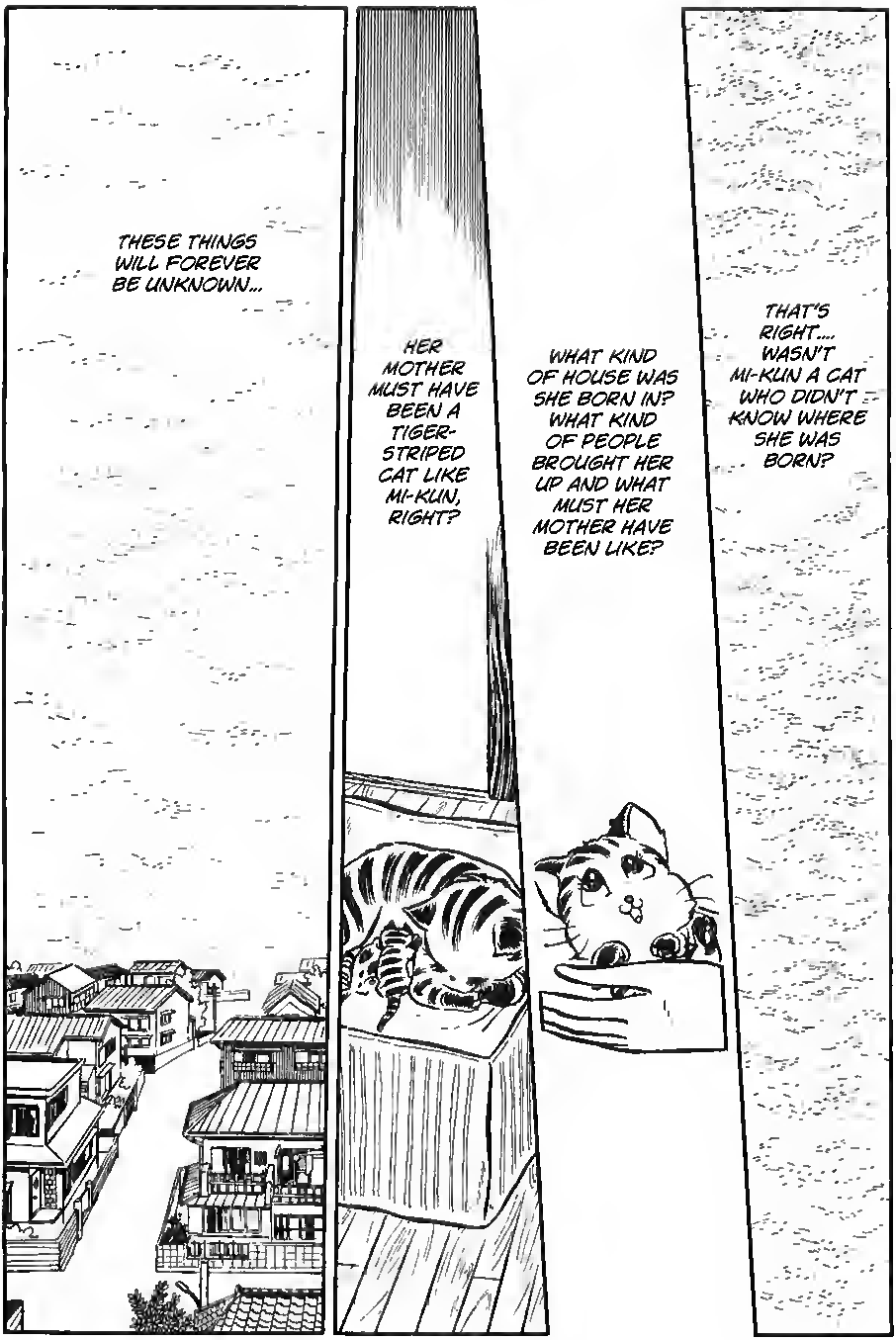
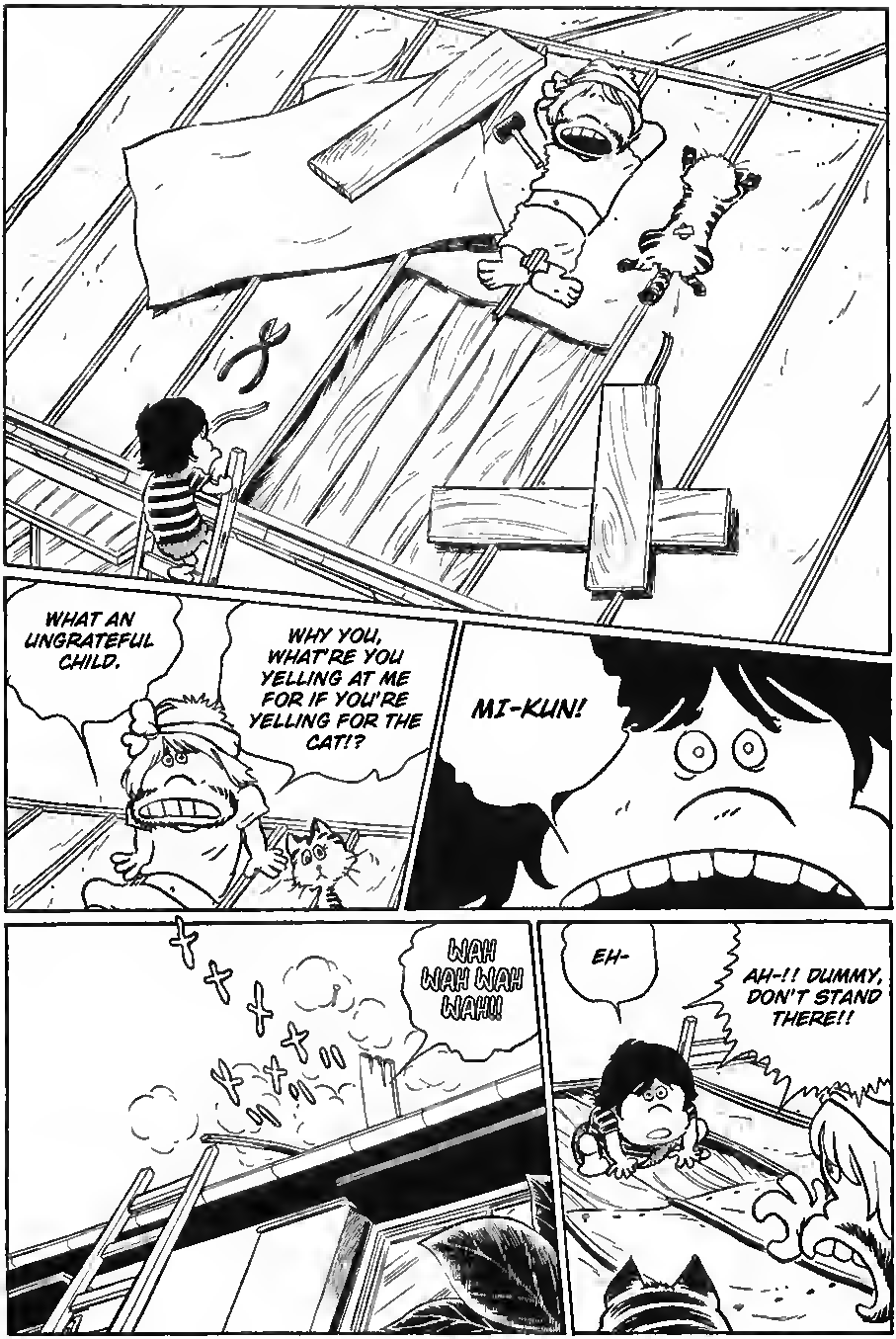
TORAJIMA NO MI-ME PART4


MI-KUN LIVED FOR FOURTEEN YEARS AS HAPPILY AS A FLOWER...
...NOW, BENEATH THIS ROCK, SHE SLEEPS ALONE...
THOUGH NO LONGER WITH US, MI-KUN WAS A GREAT CAT.
THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING THAT MI-KUN DIDN'T KNOW...


THESE THINGS WILL FOREVER BE UNKNOWN...
HER MOTHER MUST HAVE BEEN A TIGER-STRIPED CAT LIKE MI-KUN, RIGHT?
WHAT KIND OF HOUSE WAS SHE BORN IN? WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE BROUGHT HER UP AND WHAT MUST HER MOTHER HAVE BEEN LIKE?
THAT'S RIGHT.... WASN'T MI-KUN A CAT WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHERE SHE WAS BORN?

DUNNO.
WHERE'S DAD?
DUNNO.
WHERE'S MI-KUN?
AND WHEREVER MI-KUN IS, YOU'LL FIND FATHER CLOSE BEHIND.
WHEREVER YOUR FATHER IS, YOU'LL FIND MI-KUN CLOSE BEHIND.
!!
THE ROOF'S BEEN STRANGE EVER SINCE THAT TYPHOON, I TOLD YOU I HAD TO FIX IT!
THEY'RE JUST LIKE A FATHER AND SON, SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL, BUT...
SO YOU'RE HERE!
A-HA!


WHAT AN UNGRATEFUL CHILD.
WHY YOU, WHAT'RE YOU YELLING AT ME FOR IF YOU'RE YELLING FOR THE CAT!?
MI-KUN!
WAH WAH WAH WAH!!
EH-
AH-!! DUMMY, DON'T STAND THERE!!

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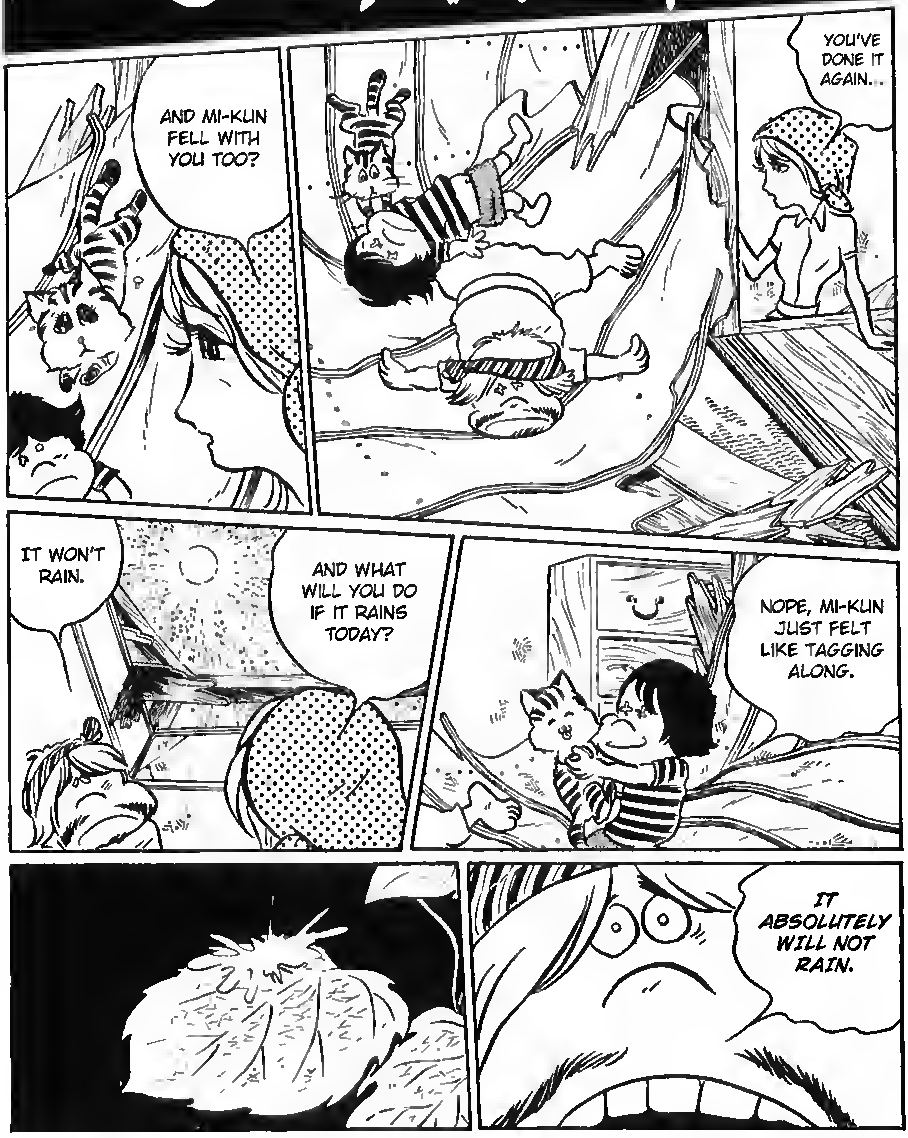

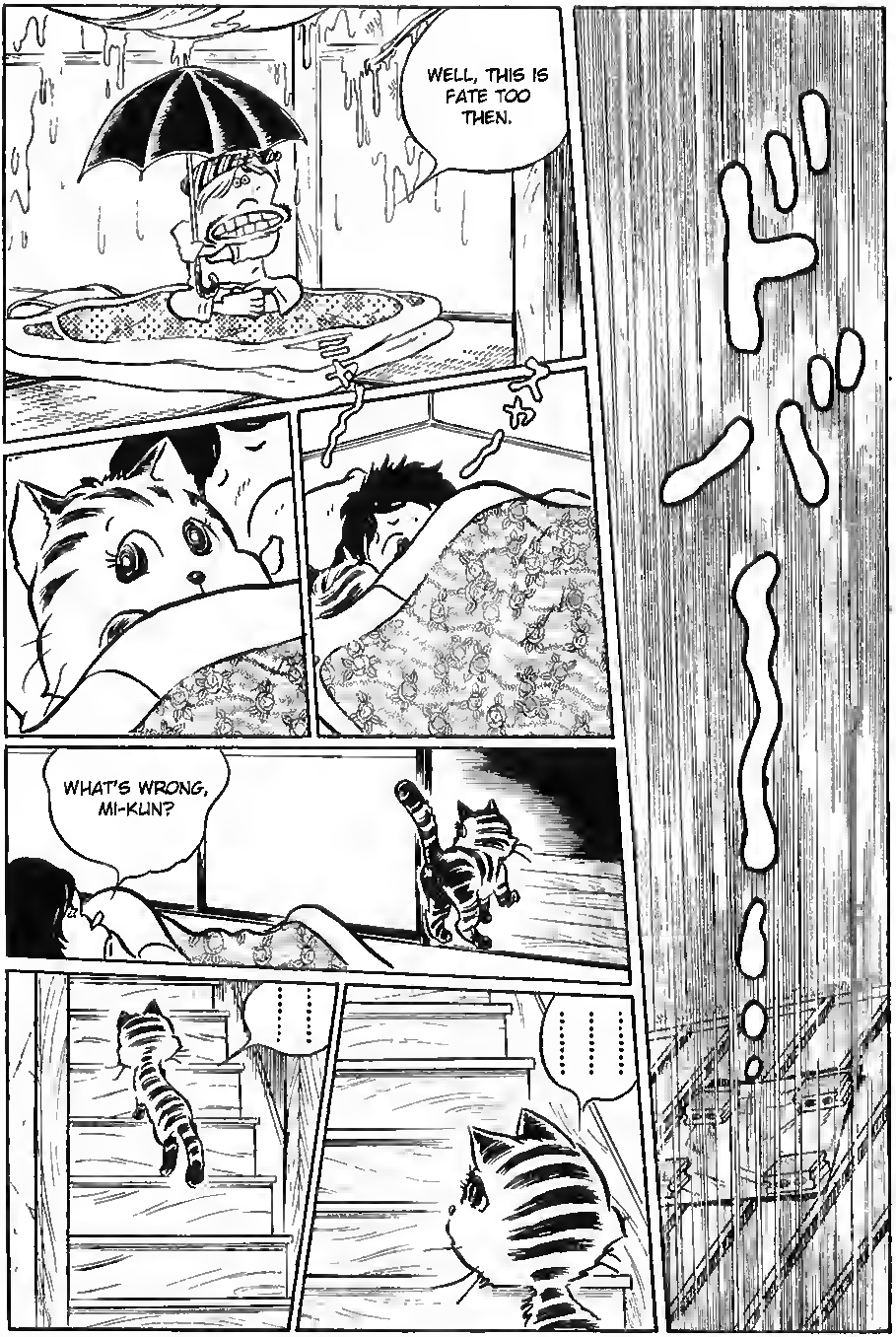
WELL, THIS IS FATE TOO THEN.
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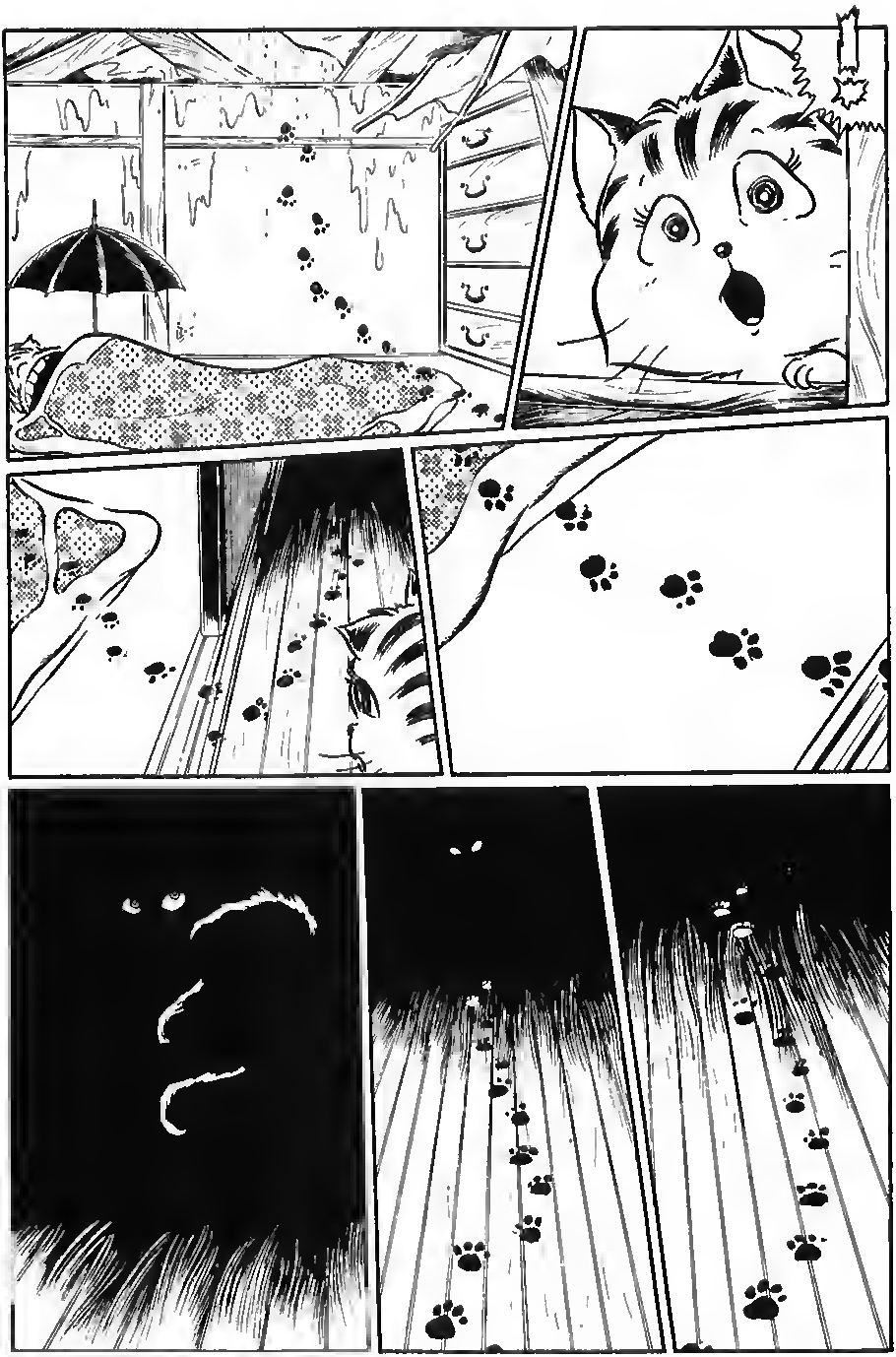

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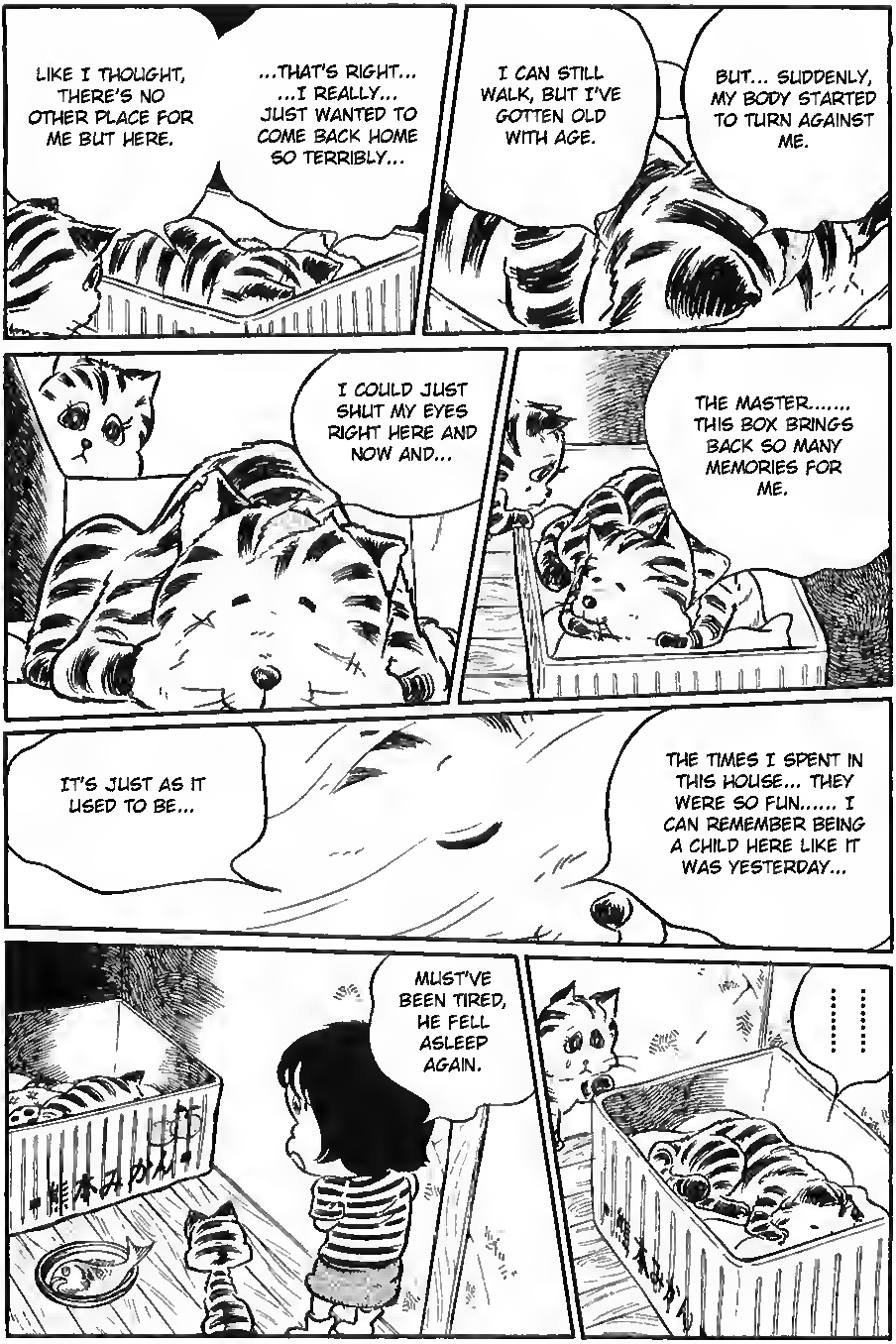
ニャ!
HE'S FINALLY COME BACK AFTER TEN YEARS!!
HEY, WAKE UP, CHIBITORA'S FINALLY COME HOME!!
IT'S CHIBITORA!! YOU'RE OUR CHIBITORA!!

TEN YEARS?
SO THAT CHIBI-TORA DISAPPEARED ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO.
HE MUST HAVE DISAPPEARED AROUND THE TIME HE WAS AS SMALL AS YOU ARE, MI-KUN.
DAD SAYS SINCE HE'S A TOMCAT, HE MUST HAVE WENT OUT SEEKING ADVENTURE AS A MAN.
I WAS STILL REALLY SMALL SO I CAN BARELY EVEN REMEMBER HIM MYSELF THOUGH...
熊本みかん
熊本みかん

AH, IS THAT MI-KUN...?
WAS IT HARD?
I WAS RAISED IN THIS CARDBOARD BOX WHEN I WAS A KITTEN, YOU SEE.
I FEEL AT PEACE NOW THAT I'M IN HERE.
NO, NOT AT ALL...
SO MANY PLACES. ALWAYS GETTING INTO FIGHTS WITH STRAY DOGS... I WENT SO VERY FAR.
WHERE DID YOU GO?
MASTER NEVER FORGOT ME AND ALWAYS HELD ONTO THIS BOX.
I LIVED A LONG TIME IN TOTAL FREEDOM. IT REALLY WAS ENJOYABLE...
IT WAS SO MUCH FUN.
I WENT THROUGH A LOT OF DIFFICULT TIMES, BUT I'M STRONG SO I WAS NEVER SCARED.


LIKE I THOUGHT, THERE'S NO OTHER PLACE FOR ME BUT HERE.
...THAT'S RIGHT... ...I REALLY... JUST WANTED TO COME BACK HOME SO TERRIBLY...
I CAN STILL WALK, BUT I'VE GOTTEN OLD WITH AGE.
BUT... SUDDENLY, MY BODY STARTED TO TURN AGAINST ME.
I COULD JUST SHUT MY EYES RIGHT HERE AND NOW AND...
THE MASTER..... THIS BOX BRINGS BACK SO MANY MEMORIES FOR ME.
IT'S JUST AS IT USED TO BE...
THE TIMES I SPENT IN THIS HOUSE... THEY WERE SO FUN..... I CAN REMEMBER BEING A CHILD HERE LIKE IT WAS YESTERDAY...
MUST'VE BEEN TIRED, HE FELL ASLEEP AGAIN.
.....

CHIBI-TORA!!
熊本みかん
HEEEY, CHIBITORA-!! I BOUGHT A BUNCH OF THAT MACKEREL YOU LOVED!!!
HE WAS JUST SLEEPING HERE...
HE'S GONE?
.....
THAT GUY AIN'T DEAD!!
THEY SAY THAT CATS WON'T LET PEOPLE SEE THEIR BODIES WHEN THEY DIE...

AH!
HE'S GONE...
HE MUSTN'T HAVE WANTED TO SHOW HIS MASTER WHERE HE'D DIE.
HE WAS SO STRONG IN HIS YOUTH WASN'T HE?
.....SO HE CAME BACK JUST TO SAY GOODBYE...?

THAT'S RIGHT.
WE'RE ALL GONNA END UP LIKE HIM SOME DAY, AREN'T WE?
LET'S MAKE IT SO NOBODY ELSE CAN FIND HIM.
EVERYONE, HELP ME HIDE HIM.
WHEN HE GETS BACK, HE'LL WANT TO SLEEP IN HIS FAVORITE SPOT AGAIN.
WAHAHAH, THAT GUY'LL COME BACK HOME IN ANOTHER TWO OR THREE YEARS.
I'M SURE OF IT...
MASTER MUST KNOW IN HIS HEART THAT HE'S REALLY GONE TOO...

IT'S POSSIBLE...
CHIBITORA WAS A TIGER-STRIPED CAT, JUST LIKE YOU.
MI-KUN
NYAGO
IT'S POSSIBLE... THAT HE COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR FATHER, DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT MI-KUN LIVED FOR FOURTEEN YEARS LIKE A FLOWER...
NOBODY KNOWS...
WHERE COULD MI-KUN HAVE BEEN BORN?

AND NOW, BENEATH THIS ROCK, SHE SLEEPS ALONE...